

A smooth functioning and credible ethics process is critical for both the reputations of individual members of Congress and for the future of the institution itself. I have consistently supported reform of the existing process. At the beginning of 2007, my colleague GREG WALDEN and I reintroduced legislation, the "Ethics Reform Act," which abolishes the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and establishes a fully independent ethics review process. This plan gives oversight authority to a panel of former Members, and empowers the independent office to oversee the actions and filings of lobbyists and offices.

While the measure we consider today differs significantly from my bill, the spirit behind it is the same. If the intent of having members of Congress sit in judgment of their colleagues is to provide both a Constitutional check on impropriety and maintain public confidence in the institution, then I believe the present system has failed both the test of timely justice and of public opinion. Vesting the power of preliminary investigation with an independent board can lift the day-to-day work above partisanship and still keep any punishment of violators safely within the purview of the Congress. I believe a more independent process will provide greater fairness for both Members under review and for the public that demands greater accountability.

The bill before us today initiates the changes that many of us seek and our constituents demand. Ultimately, I would like to see reform that fully removes sitting Members from the task of investigating their peers, and that instead gives that authority to independent individuals with a firsthand understanding of Congress. However I remain profoundly encouraged with the progress we have made on the issue of Congressional accountability. Instituting the independent ethics mechanism as outlined in this bill will benefit Congress, and ultimately, the American people.

HONORING MARGOT WRIGHT

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a civic leader, champion for worker's rights, loving mother and grandmother—Margot Wright.

Margot passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

She was born in Mansfield, Ohio. She attended the Ohio State University, and remained an enthusiastic Buckeye's football fan throughout her life.

In 1967, she moved to California and came to my hometown of Rialto. Here she began a long career as a tax-collectors worker in San Bernardino County. Margot soon became an integral part of the Rialto community. She volunteered her time and home to feed overworked police and firefighters, help keep score at little league baseball games, and at the same time raised two wonderful children as a single parent.

During her career, Margot became very involved with her local union. She held numerous terms as president of the San Bernardino Public Employees Association, the union that

represents most San Bernardino County workers and counts over 11,000 members.

Margot was known as a fighter, someone who took her union duties seriously and stood up to protect her fellow employees.

I had the great privilege of getting to work with Margot firsthand in the community. Even just a few years ago, she was still an outspoken advocate for her community—when in 2005, she helped lead the support for the Rialto Police Department during their battle to keep the city from contracting with the County Sheriff's Department.

Margot is survived by her son Todd, who is a retired Rialto police officer, her daughter Terri, and three grandchildren.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to this wonderful woman. Let us celebrate the life she lived and the example she led.

Although she is no longer with us, Margot's legacy and spirit will continue to live on through the lives of everyone she has touched. The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with her family at this time.

IN HONOR OF W.L. "CORKY" BURR

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Trooper W.L. "Corky" Burr of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, one of four state troopers nationally to be nominated for the 2007 International Association of Police Chiefs' Trooper of the Year Award. Although I am disappointed to learn that Trooper Burr did not win the award, I want to take this opportunity to honor him and his service to our community. I also extend my congratulations to the winner of the Trooper of the Year Award, New York State Trooper Amanda Reif.

Trooper Burr's actions last August in Neosho, Missouri, are testament to his skill and training as a Missouri State Trooper. On August 12, 2007, a tragic shooting spree occurred in my district at the First Congregational Church in Neosho, Missouri. That shooting left three people dead and several others seriously injured. Trooper Burr arrived at the scene, along with officers from the Neosho Police Department and the Newton County Sheriff's Office, and joined a team of other experienced officers schooled in special weapons and tactics. As they entered the sanctuary of the church, they found a man holding a female hostage at gunpoint, with around 30 members of the congregation positioned around him. Three victims were found lying on the floor mortally wounded and five others critically injured. During a tense confrontation between the suspect and the officers, Trooper Burr was able to calm the gunman, leading to his surrender and allowing the officers to take him into custody.

I had the privilege to meet with Trooper Burr and the other brave law enforcement officers shortly after this tragic event and personally thank them for their heroic actions to save the lives of the others in the church that day. I am proud today to honor Trooper "Corky" Burr for his well deserved nomination for Trooper of the Year, his dedication to his profession and his service to our community, and ask my col-

leagues in the House to join me in doing the same.

HONORING DR. MONICA DWECK

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Monica Dweck, a native New Yorker who graduated from Hunter College High School and then attended Princeton University. However, after working for several years, she decided to attend medical school at the State University of New York at the Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Upon graduation, she interned at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut, a large Level I trauma hospital. She returnee, to New York City to do her residency in Ophthalmology at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary where she was the first African-American woman in their 180-year history.

Her fellowship In Oculoplastic, Reconstructive and Orbital Surgery was done at the Cleveland Clinic and she was the first woman of color in the entire country to receive this type of fellowship training. She then entered private practice in Pennsylvania for several years. Dr. Dweck was soon recruited back to SUNY Downstate Medical Center to create an Oculoplastic Surgery curriculum for the Ophthalmology Residency Program there and to become Director of the Oculoplastic Surgery Service. A few months after her arrival, she was asked to run the Ophthalmology Residency Program. In 2005, Monica was appointed Vice-Chair and Program Director for the Department of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Dweck has held many leadership positions locally, regionally, nationally and has chaired several committees at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York State Ophthalmological Society and also the Brooklyn Ophthalmological Society, where she served as President.

In 2001, she was appointed by the New York State Board of Regents to the New York State Board of Medicine. Dr. Dweck was elected Chairperson-Elect of the National Medical Association—Ophthalmology Section In 2005.

Dr. Monica Dweck has lectured on national and international levels and has several research abstracts and book chapters. She has received numerous awards over the years, including a listing in the Castle-Connelly "Top Doctors in the New York Metro Area" annually since 2000 and Strathmore's Who's Who.

Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize Dr. Dweck's remarkable career and selfless dedication to medical research. She is distinguished member of the Brooklyn medical community.

ELIZABETH CRUZ

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elizabeth Cruz of Liberty,